

REMARKS

In this Amendment claims 1, 3, 7-10, 12-14, and 17-21 have been amended. Claims 5, 6, and 11 have been cancelled. New claims 22-27 have been added. Claims 1-4, 7-10, and 12-27 are currently pending in the above-captioned application.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended for clarification and to incorporate the subject matter of claims 5 and 11, respectively. Accordingly, claims 5 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 3 and 9 have been amended to bring it into conformity with amended claim 1 and 7, respectively.

The amendments to claims 1, 3, 7, and 9 are fully supported by the application as originally filed. In particular, support for “[i]n a computer-based business intelligence system” in claim 1 (emphasis added) can be found, for example, in the specification on page 7, lines 8-16; support for “defining the drill-through objects ...by metadata”, “creating one or more drill-through path definitions ..., using the metadata”, and “creating a report ...” in claims 1 and 7 can be found, for example, in the specification on page 7, line 17-page 8, line 33, page 10, lines 10-20, page 11, lines 11-15, and in original claims 5 and 11; support for “collecting ... in a data structure” in claims 1 and 7 can be found, for example, in the specification on page 7, line 30-page 8, line 9.

Claims 12-14 have been amended to improve readability and to add language corresponding to that of claims 1 and 7. The amendments to claims 12-14 are fully supported by the disclosure, as originally filed. In particular, support for “[a] computer-based drill-through path administration method” (emphasis added) in amended claim 12 can be found, for example, in the specification on page 7, lines 8-16.

Claim 17 has been amended for clarification and to incorporate language similar to that of claims 1 and 7. Claims 18-21 have been amended in light of the changes to claim 17 and to improve readability.

Claims 8 and 10 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Support for new claims 22 and 23 can be found, for example, in the specification on page 9, lines 3-5. Support for new claims 24-27 can be found, for example, in the specification on page 11, lines 21-22 and page 12, lines 8-10.

Objection to Specification

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification based on various informalities. However, Applicants could not find noted informalities in the specification. Applicants have included copies of the relevant pages of the originally-filed specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection. Please let the Applicants know if the Examiner requires further correction.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C §101

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-5 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and note that Examiner's rejection is moot with respect to cancelled claim 5. Examiner asserts that "[t]he use of a computer or data processor has not been indicated being used to perform these steps" on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In an effort to expedite prosecution of this application however, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "[I]n a computer-based business intelligence system, a

method of ..." (emphasis added). Claim 12 has been amended to recite "[A] computer-based drill-through path administration method" (emphasis added).

In light of the amendments to independent claims 1 and 12, Applicants submit that claims 1-5 and 12-16 define a statutory product within the definition of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of claims 1-5 and 12-16 should be withdrawn at least for this reason.

Claim Rejections-35 USC §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

With respect to the rejections to claims 1, 6, 7, 12, and 17, the Examiner asserts that the terms "drill-through", "drill-through path", and "a single structure" are not defined or specified in the disclosure. See Office Action, pages 3-4. The Examiner appears to contend that these terms are unclear. Applicant respectfully disagree and submit that each of these terms are well known and would be readily understood by those having ordinary skill in the art.

With respect to the terms "drill-through" and "drill-through path", Applicants respectfully draw the Examiner's attention to the following definitions:

1)"ISP Glossary": http://isp.webopedia.com/TERM/D/drill_through.html

Drill through

(v.) Drill through is a term used to describe the act of exploring or browsing items like folders, files or related components. Generally associated with drill down and drill up, which indicate vertical movements between components, drill through is an action in

which you move horizontally between two items via a related link. An example to drill through is in the case of two reports that are in a master /detail relation with each other, and by clicking a master item on the master report you reach the details of the clicked item on the details report.

2) "Glossary of data warehousing terms"

<http://orsoc.org.uk/about/topic/projects/elwood/Glossary.htm>

Drill through

Another tool feature that allows the user to obtain more detailed data. Having drilled down to the lowest level of detail available in a given cube or report, users may need to drill through to another cube or report, e.g. to view the basic transaction level data related to the selected cell.

3) Glossary of Key Terms: <http://www.fedscope.opm.gov/glossary/index.asp>

Drill Through

An action to access information contained in another ... report. You can replace data in a ... table with data from a different quarter by drilling through to a different cube. To drill through to another cube, click on the drill through icon on the ... toolbar.--

4) Data Warehousing and Business Intelligence site at:

<http://www.1keydata.com/datawarehousing/glossary.html>

Drill Through: Data analysis that goes from an OLAP cube into the relational database.

5) "BusinessObjects OLAP Intelligence":

http://www.businessobjects.com/global/pdf/products/queryanalysis/olap_intelligence.pdf

“Drill-Through from Summary to Detailed Reports

Open drill-through capabilities in OLAP Intelligence empower users to drill from aggregated OLAP data down to relational details. This means that users can navigate and explore summarized information, and drill through and pass context to more detailed Crystal Reports or BusinessObjects Web Intelligence documents. This contextual drill-through technology provides users with intelligent navigation without the need to understand the complexities of underlying data and metadata structures.” --
(page 4)

Also, the description on page 5, lines 9-12 states “[d]rill-through... interactively explore corporate data in any combination of dimensions...” Accordingly, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a drill-through gives the ability to access data in a database, starting from a report (e.g. cube) derived from that database.

With respect to the term “drill-through path”, “path” is a term well-understood by those familiar with the art. A person of ordinary skill in the art could clearly understand the term “drill-through path” which is a combination of the above definition of “drill-through” and the general definition of the term “path”.

With respect to the rejection of the term “a single structure”, Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, and 12 for clarification by reciting “data structure”.

In regards to claims 12, 14, 17, and 19 the Examiner contends that the phrases “potential” and “possible” are indefinite. Applicants have deleted these terms from claims 12, 14, 17, and 19. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 7-

10, and 12-27 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §102

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bedell et al. (US Patent No. 6,801,910) ("Bedell").

Amended claim 1 is directed to a method of providing a drill-through service, in a computer-based business intelligence system. The method includes the steps of: defining the drill-through objects at least in part by metadata, creating one or more drill-through path definitions from one or more pairs of the drill-through objects, using the metadata, and creating a report based on the drill-through objects using the collection of the drill-through path definitions in a data structure. As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of rejected claim 5.

With respect to the rejection of claims 5, the Examiner stated: "Bedell discloses wherein the definition of a dill[sic]-through path includes metadata (column 8, lines 4-8)." (Office Action at page 6).

The cited portion of Bedell merely states that "[D]rill maps can be saved and loaded into a metadata repository as independent objects. ...". There is no disclosure or suggestion in col. 8, lines 4-8 of Bedell, nor in any other portion of the reference, that drill-through paths are defined using metadata. Bedell neither suggests nor teaches defining the drill-through objects at least in part by metadata, and creating one or more drill-through path definitions from one or more pairs of the drill-through objects, using the metadata, as recited in claims 1 and 7. Saving and loading drill maps into a

metadata repository does not constitute defining the drill-through objects at least in part by metadata. Therefore Bedell fails to teach the claimed limitations.

Claim 1 therefore is allowable over Bedell and claims 2-4 and new claim 22 are allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 1. Amended claims 7, 12 and 17, while different in scope, recite features similar to those of amended claim 1. Claims 7, 12, and 17 therefore, are allowable at least for the reasons discussed with regard to claim 1. Claims 8-10, 13-16, 18-21 and new claims 23-27 are allowable at least due to their dependence from one of claims 7, 12, and 17.

Hence it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 7-10, and 12-27 are allowable over Bedell.

Claim Scope

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In discussing the specification and claims in this Amendment it is to be understood that Applicant is in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicant is entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

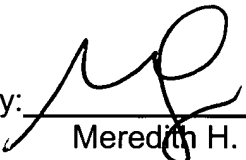
In view of the above amendments and remarks and having addressed all the objections raised by the Examiner, reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously requested.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please
charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 
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